

Work Group: Advanced Communications Services and Technology
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By Goal and Objective – Description of Activity, Planned Activities, Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback

- a. = Description of Activity
- b. = Planned Activities
- c. = Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback

Goal 1: Expedite the provision of advanced communications services access in all areas of the San Joaquin Valley.

Objective A: Raise the profile of access to ACS as a fundamental and necessary service for all residents and businesses.

- a. Discussion continues to take place on how to increase adoption rates.
- b. Determination of the current amount of penetration rate for ACS in the San Joaquin Valley.
- c. None

Objective B: Inform local elected officials about the benefits of ubiquitous access to ACS and provide model policies and other tools to help facilitate deployment.

- a. Discussions took place on topics to be included in primer and consensus was reached to expand on model policies and include financial benefits and terms.
- b. Research for primer.
- c. None

Objective C: Identify communities and neighborhoods without affordable connection to delivery of ACS.

Completed

Objective D: Increase availability of affordable ACS in rural and other underserved areas.

- a. Discussion of what is “affordable” took place with most providers believing fees are close to the same cost for a phone line. There are currently no subsidies for low-income clients; that can be a topic for the work group to explore.
- b. Determine what it would take to pass subsidies for low-income clients to receive ACS.
- c. None

Objective E: Increase deployment of ACS by current and prospective service providers.

- a. Discussion regarding access to ACS for all community members. Decided access is widely available except for areas with populations under 1,000 or where there is no infrastructure.
- b. Meeting with CPUC, CSAC, LCC and CSBA.
- c. None

Objective F: Increase deployment through wired, fixed wireless, wireless and other available technologies.

- a. Primer to support this concept.
- b. Work on primer.
- c. None.

Objective G: Eliminate installation barriers that discourage deployment.

- a. Discussed inviting Caltrans to present at an ACS meeting to provide information regarding how much installation has occurred.
- b. Invitation to Caltrans.
- c. None

Objective H: Identify and seek all available funding for deployment of ACS.

- a. Several grant applications have been submitted to support increase funding for ACS.
- b. Determine if any stimulus money will provide funding for ACS deployment.
- c. Understanding and tracking stimulus funding.

Objective I: Leverage unused bandwidth for the benefit of the greatest number of users.

- a. Providers advised most bandwidth is used or sold.
- b. Contact CENIC and BBIC to determine current policies.
- c. None

Objective J: Incorporate ACS infrastructure into all new residential and commercial construction.

- a. Discussion regarding current infrastructure trends.
- b. Meeting with BIA to increase the use of ACS in infrastructure.
- c. Current housing downturn.

Goal 2: Promote accessibility and utilization of ACS in targeting underserved communities and populations.

Objective A: Increase utilization of ACS by all residents.

- a. Working with Cutler-Orosi which received funding from CPUC to provide ACS services in Firebaugh and other underserved communities.
- b. Researching if technical support can be provided to other CPUC-funded programs.
- c. Funding

Objective B: Inform local officials about the importance and benefits of access to ACS and IT for all residents and businesses.

- a. Creating primer for elected officials which includes: importance of ACS, financial benefits, terms.
- b. Continued research
- c. None

Objective C: Implement projects to provide access to ACS and IT for all residents and businesses to eliminate the digital divide.

- a. Application to Zero divide to provide IT services to disadvantaged communities.
- b. Contact CETF to invite to ACS meeting to discuss current programs they are funding or will fund in the future to support this objective.
- c. None

Objective D: Develop and implement a program to ensure all high school students graduate with the basic computer literacy skills.

- a. Joint meeting with PreK-12 Work Group to discuss this goal and the possibility of expanding to include teacher training.
- b. Joint meeting with PreK-12 Work Group.
- c. Reduced school funding dollars for technology training.

Objective E: Expand the number of public locations for access to ACS to help disadvantaged residents and businesses to bridge the digital divide.

- a. ACS Work Group to determine which government agencies provide this service.
- b. Research to determine which agencies provide ACS to public.
- c. Difficult to determine by community

Goal 3: Expand and replicate successful model programs to increase access to ACS and IT to bridge the digital divide.

Objective A: Develop and implement a plan to expand and replicate the most successful strategies and programs to bridge the digital divide.

- a. Working to duplicate and expand programs that are successfully providing ACS services such as T3. Also looking to provide some technology social enterprise.
- b. Invitation for more technology groups to present at ACS meetings.
- c. Funding to support social enterprise is difficult to obtain.

Objective B: Foster demand for ACS access in underserved and disadvantaged communities, such as encouraging economic development and growth of home-based businesses.

- a. Application made to California Consumer Protection Foundation to expand ACS services underserved and disadvantaged communities.
- b. Application to Zero Divide.
- c. Due to downturn of economy, many funders do not have dollars to support such a venture.

Goal 4: Accelerate deployment of ACS infrastructure through telemedicine and eHealth technology.

Objective A: Develop and implement a telemedicine and eHealth plan to connect health clinics with medical centers.

- a. Telemedicine report completed for UC Merced.
- b. None
- c. None

Objective B: Build upon ACS infrastructure for telemedicine and eHealth to promote other applications for education and economic development to increase access and affordability.

- a. No activity

If you have coordinated any outreach, please describe briefly.

Outreach to California Consumer Protection Foundation